THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) A new insurance scheme called "Janraksha", intended to cater to the needs of rural population, has been announced in the Budget Speech for 2002-03. For an annual premium of Rs. 365/-, the insured person will be entitled to indoor treatment upto Rs. 30,000/- per year at selected and designated hospitals while outdoor treatment will also be available at designated clinics which would include civil hospitals, medical colleges, private trust hospitals and other NGO run institutions. The scheme will be launched by the four public sector general insurance companies.

(c) to (e) The four public sector general insurance companies are already operating a medical insurance scheme known as 'Mediclaim' which caters to the needs of both urban and rural population The scheme provides for reimbursement of medical expenses incurred by an individual towards hospitalisation/domiciliary hospitalisation for any illness, injury or disease contracted or sustained during the period of insurance.

Funds for formation of SHG

3143. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rs. 500 crore was given to NABARD for SHG formation in 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the amount of the above actually spent in the year 2001-2002, State-wise; and

(c) the total quantum of money earned by women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) No financial assistance has been given by Government of India to National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for Self Help Groups (SHGs) formation in 2001-2002. As reported by NABARD, its financial commitment for various micro finance interventions during 2001-02 aggregated Rs. 402.10 crore which included Rs. 393.10 crore of refinance to banks for onlending to SHGs. NABARD has

further reported that over 90 per cent of SHGs are exclusively women groups.

Tax cut on raw materials for hardware sector

†3144. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hardware entrepreneurs have made a demand to provide concessions in tax on raw materials and spare parts;

(b) if so, whether Government have so far considered this demand; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, by when, the said demand is likely to be considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government had received representations from industry association requesting for customs duty concessions on raw materials, inputs and Capital equipment for the IT/Electronics hardware sector.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. In this year's Budget Government have reduced the basic customs duty on 43 specified categories of raw materials and inputs for the IT/Electronics hardware sector from 25—35% to 5% adv. In addition, the Government have also reduced the basic customs duty on 24 specified categories of Capital equipment including moulds, dies and tools for the hardward sector from 25% adv. to 15% adv. Furthermore, the basic customs duty on 56 specified Capital equipment for the hardware sector has been reduced from 5% adv. to Nil.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.